

social forces that have molded a nation, we can begin to better understand each other and contribute to the knowledge and understanding that will strengthen our ties of friendship and lead to a better world." As we lead this Nation into a more globally interdependent future, it will serve us well to keep Mike Mansfield's words, and his legacy, close to us.

TRIBUTE TO STANLEY BLAKE HARRIS, CHIEF COUNSEL AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute and wish a fond farewell to a longtime staff member, Stanley Blake Harris, who is departing my personal office staff and returning to the State of Mississippi after more than fifteen years of exemplary service here in Washington. Throughout his career, Stan has served with distinction. It is my privilege to recognize his accomplishments and commend him for the superb service he has provided to me and to our home state.

A native of Hattiesburg, MS, Stan graduated from William Carey College in 1982, ranked first academically in his class. During his tenure at William Carey, Stan earned the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science *summa cum laude*, with a triple major in English, History, and Social Science as well as a double minor in Business Administration and Political Science. In addition, Stan's classmates bestowed upon him the honor and privilege of serving as Student Government Association President while at William Carey.

Upon his graduation, Stan enrolled in the University of Mississippi School of Law, from which he received a Juris Doctorate in 1985. His endeavors and accomplishments on behalf of the law school and his classmates were recognized as he was awarded the Dean's Outstanding Service Award, the Edward R. Finch Award, and the Stephen Gorove Award.

Immediately following his graduation from law school, Stan continued his educational pursuits at Mississippi State University, where he enrolled in the Public Policy and Administration Program. However, before he could complete the program, duty in Washington called. At the beginning of 1986, Stan came to work for me in Washington as a Whip Assistant in the House of Representatives Republican Whip Office. From there, Stan went on to serve as Counsel in my personal office while I was a member of the House of Representatives.

Upon my election to the United States Senate in 1989, Stan was named Counsel and Director of Projects in my office, and was charged with responsibility for establishing my Projects Department. In this role, Stan has directed efforts in my office to pursue

public projects for the State of Mississippi. Along these lines, he has handled cases and projects involving virtually every Federal department and agency, including the Department of Agriculture, NASA, the Department of State, the Department of Justice, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Appalachian Regional Commission and the White House. In addition, he has worked closely with officials in virtually every city, county, and state agency in Mississippi, while looking after Mississippi's needs. Further, Mississippi has benefited from the close working relationships Stan has developed with Congressional staff members in both the House and Senate.

Although Stan has worked diligently for the nation throughout his tenure on Capitol Hill, he has always put Mississippi first. The thing I will always remember the most about Stan is his unflinching ability to "out-bureaucrat the bureaucrats." His tenacity and refusal to yield on matters of importance to Mississippi have produced great results for our state. For instance, Stan has been instrumental in my efforts to secure a new Federal courthouse for Harrison County, Mississippi. He has worked tirelessly for me for the past decade to ensure that a new bridge over the Pascagoula River is built for the people of Jackson County. And just last year on my behalf, he opened doors in Washington for officials from his hometown of Hattiesburg, who are endeavoring to construct a new intermodal center for the City of Hattiesburg. He also has worked closely with Mississippi's universities to improve educational opportunities in our State and to make these facilities the finest in the Nation.

But Stan's work on Capitol Hill has not been limited to Mississippi projects alone. Over the past fifteen years, he also has maintained a special focus on Federal ethics. During this time, Stan has served as my counsel through such prominent cases as the Durenberger and "Keating Five" hearings, as well as other notable ethics inquiries. In fact, because of his work, Stan was selected to serve on the Senate Ethics Reform Task Force. As an outgrowth of his Federal ethics work, Stan has also developed a special commitment to law enforcement organizations nationwide. Because of his work on behalf of law enforcement groups everywhere and our nation's parks, Stan has been named an honorary member of the U.S. Park Police.

Several years ago, as if his plate wasn't already full enough, Stan fulfilled a lifelong dream of joining the Mississippi Army National Guard. For a number of years now, he has regularly commuted between Washington, D.C. and Jackson, Mississippi to fulfill his duty requirements. During that time, he has risen to the rank of Major in the Judge Advocate General Corps

where he now serves as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for Headquarters, 66th Troop Command.

On Wednesday, October 17, 2001, Stan will conclude over fifteen years of faithful and loyal service in my office. And while it is difficult to lose a staff member with such dedication and institutional knowledge, I know that he and his family are excited about returning home to Mississippi where Stan and his wife, Lauren, can begin raising their four children with an appropriate southern accent.

In the weeks ahead, Stan will begin a new journey in his professional and legal career as the Chief Deputy Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Southern District office in Mississippi. I have no doubt that Stan will serve the Department of Justice, the State of Mississippi, and the people of our Nation, in this role with distinction and integrity. On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I want to wish Stan all of the best in his new career. Stan, may this new chapter in your life and career be rewarding, fulfilling, and bring you all that you hope for in your future endeavors. Thank you, again, for your service and my warmest congratulations on a job well done.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT EVANDER EARL ANDREWS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today in sadness over the first announced American casualty in Operation Enduring Freedom. Master Sergeant Evander Earl Andrews, who was stationed in my home State of Idaho at the Mountain Home Air Force Base, was killed in service to his country in the Arabian Peninsula. He was part of the 366th Civil Engineer Squadron stationed there. Although Master Sergeant Andrews was originally from a small town in Maine, Idaho feels this loss along with the rest of the Nation.

Master Sergeant Andrews went to the Middle East to fight for our freedom with valor and courage in this time of national crisis and made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his country. There are no words for such an incredible loss, but we are a great Nation because of brave men and women like Master Sgt. Andrews.

Flags are flying all over our country now, a visible display of the support our military troops and our President have over Operation Enduring Freedom. With the news of the first American casualty, it becomes even more evident that American lives will be lost in this fight against terrorism. Our hearts and prayers are not only with the family of Master Sergeant Andrews in Idaho and Maine, but also with the families of all our military troops, who are serving their country so far away.

This will be a long war, one that will be won over a period of months or

years through several strategic actions; there is no one operation that will rid the world of the evils of terrorism. But one thing is certain: freedom will prevail and we will not forget Master Sergeant Andrews and others like him to whom we owe our liberties.

VISION 2020 WORLD SIGHT DAY 2001

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, Vision 2020 World Sight Day 2001 is observed today, Thursday October 11, 2001, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, WHO, the 2020 Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Christian Blind Mission International, CBMI, and a partnership of 26 international organizations concerned with world blindness working together to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020.

Forty-five million people living in our world today are totally blind. Eighty percent of this blindness could be prevented or cured with simple cost-effective nutrition, medicines and medical care. A child in our world goes blind every minute, most often due to a simple lack of Vitamin A. More than half of these precious children will die within 2 years of losing their sight.

The primary causes of blindness, malnutrition, disease, lack of medicines and medical care, are always linked to the grinding poverty so characteristic of developing nations around the globe. Millions of men, women and children needlessly live in a prison of darkness 24 hours a day. They desperately need the help of privileged nations to be set free.

The Vision 2020 program plans to eliminate most of the world's blindness by the year 2020. But with no intervention, the number of blind in this world will reach an estimated 100 million by the year 2020.

World Sight Day 2001 raises awareness that most blindness, associated misery, and several billion dollars in related costs can be prevented if we as a nation and a world intervene in time.

I commend the 2020 Foundation, Christian Blind Mission International and the other members of the 2020 Task Force for helping bring the gift of sight to the less fortunate around the world.

SIX SIMPLE STEPS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, an organization called Common Sense about Kids and Guns has developed a list of six gun safety tips that have been endorsed by a wide range of organizations from the National SAFE KIDS Campaign to the National Shooting Sport Foundation. Regardless of our differences of opinion on how to regulate firearms, I think we can all agree that these simple steps make a lot of sense.

All gun owners should unload and lock up their guns, lock and store ammunition separately and keep keys where kids are unable to find them. In

addition, parents should ask if guns are safely stored at places their kids visit or play, regularly talk with their kids about guns, and teach young children both not to touch guns and tell an adult if they find one.

The Centers for Disease Control's National Center for Health Statistics reports that firearm deaths of children and teens is dropping. However, ignoring firearms related child homicides, there were still 1,300 kids killed in gun-related accidents and suicides in 1999. That number remains far too high. Remembering the six simple steps proposed by Common Sense about Kids and Guns can help cut that number even more.

PREPARING FOR BIOTERRORISM IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleagues, Senator JOHN EDWARDS, and Senator CHUCK HAGEL, in supporting legislation to help South Dakotans prepare for possible bioterrorist attacks. The recent example of anthrax being reported in Florida has highlighted the importance of being prepared to combat bioterrorism in our communities.

Now this doesn't mean that everyone should run out and buy a gas mask. Successful attacks using germs and chemicals are relatively difficult to accomplish and rarely attempted.

However, the nature of such an attack makes just one successful act of bioterrorism unique and incredibly damaging. For example, most of the germs involved in bioterrorism, anthrax and smallpox to name a few, are so rare that many medical professionals haven't treated them before. Symptoms may not be visible for days or weeks, and these diseases can be spread easily among people.

In addition to threatening people, bioterrorism can also cripple our State's agriculture economy. We all saw this summer how the threat of foot-and-mouth disease in the United States can directly impact South Dakota's ag business.

The risk of an agriculture terrorist attack poses a serious threat to our economy as well as our abundant food supply. An agricultural terrorist could introduce a pathogen to a certain crop and decimate that crop's yield. A quickly-spreading animal disease intentionally introduced could cause economic ruin to States that depend on revenues from the livestock industry.

Earlier this week, the nonpartisan General Accounting Office, GAO, reported that coordination is fragmented between 40 Federal departments and agencies responsible for responding to a bioterrorist attack.

The GAO report also noted insufficient State and local planning for response to terrorist attacks. In addition, while spending on domestic pre-

paredness for terrorist attacks has risen 310 percent since 1998, only a portion of these funds were used to conduct research on and prepare for the public health and medical consequences of a bioterrorist attack.

To better address the needs of State and local communities in dealing with the threat of bioterrorism, I recently joined Senators EDWARDS and HAGEL on legislation called the Biological and Chemical Weapons Preparedness Act.

Our legislation provides \$1.6 billion in new resources for Federal, State, and local efforts, including \$450 million specifically for agricultural counterterrorism and food safety measures.

Too often, bioterrorism funding has been tied up in the bureaucracy of Washington, and I'm pleased that our legislation sends over one-third of these funds, \$555 million, directly to States and local governments through new block grants. Our legislation gives States and local communities the resources to study the problems unique to them and implement appropriate solutions.

Our legislation would accomplish six goals. First, we would provide training and equipment to State and local "first responders," such as emergency medical personnel, law enforcement officials, fire fighters, physicians, and nurses, to recognize and respond to biological and chemical attacks.

Second, our bill strengthens the local public health network through increased training, coordination, and additional specialized equipment.

Third, we protect food safety and the agricultural economy by providing assistance to States to better coordinate with law enforcement and public health officials, increase training and awareness among farmers and other agricultural stakeholders. Our measure would also give States the resources they need to establish emergency diagnostic facilities to work in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's facility to quickly diagnose animal diseases. Along with this assistance to States, the measure would provide additional funds for the USDA's counterterrorism efforts.

Fourth, the legislation assists local hospital emergency rooms with response training and biocontainment and decontamination capabilities.

Fifth, we address the need to develop and stockpile vaccines and antibiotics.

Finally, our Biological and Chemical Weapons Preparedness Act enhances disease surveillance between the Centers for Disease Control, CDC, and State and local public health services to provide electronic nationwide access to critical data, treatment guidelines, and alerts.

Our legislation has been referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and there have already been a handful of hearings held so far. I anticipate a number of